

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3810 Rosin Court, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 263-6890

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Carl DeWing
(916) 263-7949

November 18, 2003

PR 03-72

HOLIDAY ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT BEGINS WITH MULTI-AGENCY TASK FORCE

San Diego -- Investigators of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and officers of seven San Diego County local law enforcement agencies kicked off a holiday season enforcement effort to reduce drunk driving and sales of alcoholic beverages to minors.

A total of 45 nightclubs, bars and liquor stores were visited by ABC investigators and officers of the Chula Vista, El Cajon, La Mesa, San Diego, San Diego State University, and University of California Police Departments, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The owners, managers and employees of the locations were all reminded of their responsibilities in the selling and serving of alcoholic beverages.

The Friday night operation resulted in nine misdemeanor arrests, two felony arrests, and four administrative cases against ABC licensed businesses for sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal possession of drugs, and sales of alcohol after the required closing hour of 2 a.m.

ABC San Diego District Office Administrator Steve Ernst said the multi-agency task force is the beginning of efforts to make sure liquor licensees are complying with the law. Said Ernst, "The ABC and local law enforcement efforts are designed to reduce tragic deaths and injuries during the holidays. Liquor licensees must do their part to prevent sales of alcohol to obviously intoxicated patrons and minors."

Ernst said enforcement efforts will increase as the holidays grow closer. For more information on the operation, contact Ernst at (619) 525-4599.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.